



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**SOUTH GEORGIA DELEGATION TRAVELS TO WASHINGTON, D.C.**  
**TO MEET WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL, F.B.I. DIRECTOR**  
**AND OTHERS FOR PROJECT SAFE CHILDHOOD**

**SAVANNAH, GA:** Lisa Godbey Wood, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, announced today that a team of South Georgia federal, state and local law enforcement officers traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend the Department of Justice's National Conference for Project Safe Childhood, a new initiative aimed at increasing criminal prosecutions against online sex predators. The purpose of the conference was for each of the 93 districts in the country to come together to share ideas about how to combat the growing epidemic of online child exploitation. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales and F.B.I. Director Robert Mueller participated in the conference. In addition to Lisa Wood, local participants included Stephen K. Marsh, the Southern District's Project Safe Childhood coordinator, G.B.I. agents John Barry of Statesboro and Charles Kicklighter of Thomson, F.B.I. Special Agent Brian Ozden of Augusta and Major Mark Revenew of the Pooler Police Department.

Ms. Wood also noted that the Project Safe Childhood initiative is already seeing big results in the Southern District. "Since Project Safe Childhood was launched a few months ago, we have already seen an increase in the prosecution of online sex offenders, including most recently a guilty plea by a Rincon gymnastics instructor charged with sexually exploiting one of his students." Ms. Wood pointed out that the cases recently prosecuted by the office have

involved coordinated efforts by a number of federal, state, and local agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Effingham County Sheriff's Department, Johnson County Sheriff's Department, Richmond County Sheriff's Department, and the Rincon Police Department.

For more information about Project Safe Childhood, call AUSA Stephen Marsh at (706) 724-0517.

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